(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) have informed the Government that it has not filed any claims for compensation from Oil Pool Account for losses incurred during export of petroleum products.

Assessment of Landing Price of Crude Oil

†2479. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment with regard to the landing price of crude oil at the ports of the country;

(b) if so, what is the average percentage increase in the original price of crude oil by the time it teaches Indian ports; and

(c) the items on which expenditure is made during transaction and the the extent of the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vehicles used by PSUs

2480. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by him to curb the expenditure on consumption of petroleum products in his Ministry after the recent hike in the prices of petroleum products;

(b) the details of vehicles being provided by PSUs on a regular basis for the use of Ministers and Senior Officers in his Ministry over and above their entitlement; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by PSUs since October' 99 on the provision of such vehicles?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) 10% cut in the consumption of POL for staff cars has been imposed. Further, Ministry has fitted CNG kits in 3 staff cars for curbing the consumption of petrol.

(b) and (c) Sir, the information is being collected from PSUs and will be laid on the table of the House.

2481. [Withdrawn]

Change in Perspective on Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector

2482. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rejected the plea that Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector is a strategic sector:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Oil and Gas Companies operating in the country before independence had subsequently withdrawn their investments on the plea that the sector had no commercial viability making up completely vulnerable and import dependent;

(d) if so, whether this led to the creation of Oil and Natural Gas PSUs; and

(e) if so, whether there is any change in the national perspective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Govenrment has clearly defined the strategic and non-strategic Public Sector Enterprices as per the decision dated 16.3.1999. The definition is that the Strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

1. **Arms and ammunitions** and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircraft and warships.

2. **Atomic Energy** except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries)

3. **Railway Transport**

It was also decided that for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% **would not be automatic** and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out keeping in mind the